



# NW COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

P. O. Box 21428 • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98111-3428 • (206) 233-9136

P.O. Box 36 BELLINGHAM, WA 98227 (360) 756-0914 • E-MAIL: chdpdx@aol.com

## ***NORTHWEST UPDATE***

May 15, 2000

**88. NWCHD COMPLETES ONE MONTH EUROPEAN TOUR:** Regional Coordinator, Eric Ward, accompanied by Devin Burghart of the Chicago-based Center for New Community, recently returned from a month-long trip to England and Germany. The trip sponsored by *Searchlight Magazine* and their international network, was part of our ongoing efforts to counter the international growth of the far-right. The tour included presentations and meetings in New Castle, Frankfurt, Berlin, Belefield, Essen, Dusseldorf, and Hamburg, concluding with an international conference on stopping white power music.

**89. NWCHD TRAVELS TO EUGENE OREGON:** Research Director, Jonn Lunsford, addressed participants on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the annual Rural Organizing Project's statewide caucus, on hate crimes and how to effectively respond. This yearly meeting gathers activists from rural communities around the state, for a weekend of networking and organizing. Congratulations ROP on another successful event.

**90. NWCHD AT YAKIMA KIWANAS CLUB:** NWCHD Executive Director Terre Rybovich spoke to the Kiwanas Clubs in Yakima County, Washington on Pastor Appreciation Day, May 16th. Ms. Rybovich spoke to 100 attendees on what religious leaders can do to promote diversity and ideas on how to prevent the misuse of Christian theology by white supremacists.

**100. NWCHD TOURS PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION:** NWCHD interns, Camellia Caton-Garcia and Kate Boyd, spent a week touring a large part of the Northwest region, meeting and networking with our many task force members. Their travels took them through Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Wyoming, where they attended the Wyoming Activists Gathering.

**101. NEZ PERCE PARENTS PROTEST SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANTI-INDIAN AFFILIATION:** On May 15th members of the Kamiah Indian Education Parents Committee organized a march protesting the school district's membership in the North Central Idaho Jurisdictional Alliance (NCIJA). Approximately 60 people, including Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee members and NWCHD board member Leah Henry-Slaney marched through Kamiah to the high school where the school board holds its regular meetings. The Indian Education Parents Committee requested a response to an April letter they sent to the Kamiah school board calling for the school district to withdraw from NCIJA, particularly in light of a NCIJA document that states "... bloodshed is inevitable," between the Nez Perce tribe and non-tribal members. Merry Leach, President of the school board, denied the request and ended the public comment portion of the meeting before all people who signed to address the school board had the opportunity to speak. After a terse exchange with Nez Perce parents, Ms. Leach called for an executive session of the school board.

**102. GARGANTUAN SWASTIKA STUNS SEATTLE COMMUTERS:** As Seattle area residents traveled to work May 4th, they were greeted by a 30 feet high and 60 feet wide replica of the Nazi flag. It had been painted on a retaining wall near Luther Burbank Park on Interstate 90. Donned with a huge swastika in the center of a red rectangle, the flag was located near Mercer Island, an area known for its large Jewish population. The incident occurred two days after Yom Ha'Shoah, the annual day Jews remember the Holocaust. Several other anti-Semitic acts had been reported to the Anti-Defamation League on April 19 and 20. "We believe this (the graffiti) was a clear message and

a clear response to Yom Ha'Shoah," said Brian Goldberg of the Seattle branch of the ADL. Anyone with information about the graffiti is asked to call the Mercer Island Police Department at 206-236-3500. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, May 5<sup>th</sup>)

**103. OREGON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEFACED WITH RACIST GRAFITTI:** For the second time in two months, Lot Whitcomb Elementary School in Milwaukie, Oregon, was hit with racial slurs, swastikas and profanity. The graffiti was etched into sixty windowpanes throughout the school. In early March, police investigated another incident at the school in which swastikas and racial epithets were scraped onto door surfaces and penned onto walls. Police are offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction. North Clackamas schools are offering a \$500 reward. Anyone with information should call police at 503-655-8218. (*Oregonian*, May 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**104. KELSO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HOLD ANTI-RACIST RALLY:** About 25 students gathered at Tam O' Shanter Park in Kelso, Washington to protest recent hate crimes at their school. The rally comes in the wake of dozens of students wearing Confederate flags on their T-shirts and coveralls, a black student finding a noose attached to his car, and a white student attacking a black student twice in one day using racial slurs. Additionally, a parent called the principal to report seeing a person standing outside the high school wearing a Ku Klux Klan robe. Police have since identified the person they suspect may have been dressed as the Klansman, and have told him to stay away from the school. One white student was charged with a hate crime and referred to Juvenile Hall on suspicion of malicious harassment. He was also expelled from school. (*Daily News*, April 25<sup>th</sup>)

**105. HATE MAIL AND TRINKETS CIRCULATE AROUND THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON:** Letters postmarked in Seattle on April 19 or 20 were mailed to at least 12 county residents with last names starting with "A" or "B". Along with white supremacist materials, were pornography, seashells, playing cards, nails, and even marijuana. Most of the victims only had the first letter of their last names in common. Letters were also sent to a resident in Mountlake Terrace and one in Bellevue. "We don't have a motive," said Thurston County sheriff's Capt. Dan Kimball. Police are urging people who receive one of the packages, not to handle it much, so they might obtain fingerprints. Anyone with information can call Det. Chris Edin at 360-754-4395. (*The Olympian*, April 28<sup>th</sup>)

**106. MATT HALE TO SPEAK AT NORDIC FEST 2000:** Renown racist Matt Hale of the World Church of the Creator is scheduled to speak at "Nordic Fest 2000", in Powderly, Kentucky. The festival will start at noon on Friday May 26 and continue until Monday May 29. Along with white power bands such as Extreme Hatred, Youngland, No Alibi, HateCrimes and Hammerhead, other scheduled activities include swastika lightings, camping, tattoos, and racist information booths.

**107. SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER CLEARED OF ANTI-SEMITISM:** The Spokane Human Rights Commission decided to drop charges against a fellow commissioner who stood accused of proselytizing a Jewish woman who survived the Holocaust. Commission member Victor Buksbazen, was visiting Temple Beth Shalom, while representing the commission, and gave a book he wrote entitled "The Jewish People in the Christian World" to the woman. Temple members complained about its content and its extolling of Christianity. After the commission dismissed the charges, commissioner Cindi Abbot resigned. In her letter of resignation, she said: "The day that it is okay for a human rights commissioner to knowingly hand over a book containing language that discredits the sanctity of the Jewish religion to a Holocaust death camp survivor is the day that I no longer wish to be associated with that commission."

••• The NWCHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to [chdpdx@aol.com](mailto:chdpdx@aol.com). Alternatively you can mail such items to the address below or call us. NWCHD Research staff rely upon such information to fill out much of the Northwest Update and we appreciate your contributions. •••